

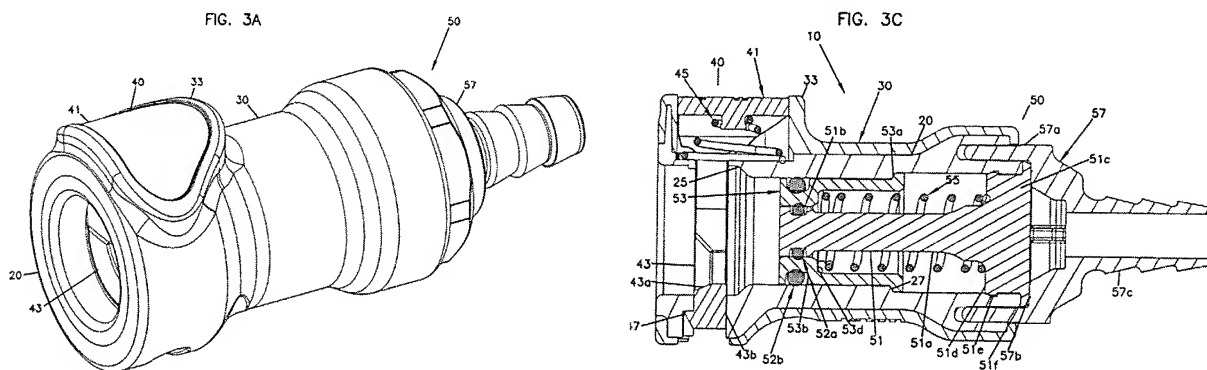
### Remarks

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated May 18, 2006. Claim 1 is amended. Support for the amendment is found, for example, at page 14, lines 24-27 and Figures 3A and 3C of the present application. Claims 1-8 and 16-19 remain pending. Reconsideration is requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Carstens (U.S. Patent No. 4,863,201). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration in view of the following comments.

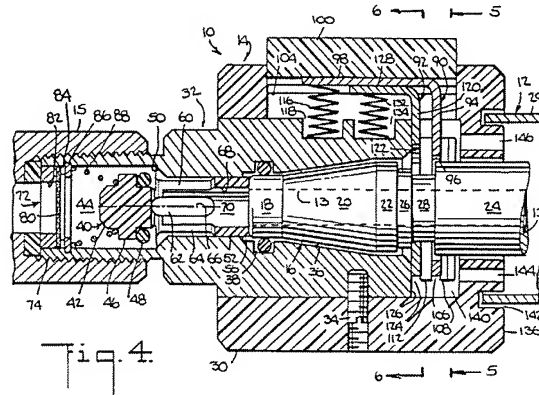
Claim 1 recites a shroud portion being a wall extending outward from the outer sidewall and adjacent and around said outer member of said latch assembly, said wall extending in a direction transverse to said outer surface, and a top portion of said wall protruding from said outer surface at least a same distance as an outermost portion of said outer member protrudes from said outer surface when the outer member is in a non-depressed state.

One example embodiment of an overmold portion with a shroud portion configured as recited by claim 1 is shown in Figures 3A and 3C of the present application, reprinted below.



Application, Figs. 3A and 3C. Example overmold 30 includes shroud portion 33 that extends transversely outward from outer sidewall 21, and is disposed adjacent slot 26. In example embodiments, a top portion of shroud portion 33 protrudes at least a same distance as an outermost portion of latch assembly 40 to partially cover and protect latch assembly 40 when an actuating member 41 of latch assembly 40 is in a non-depressed state. Application, p. 9, ll. 2-11; p. 14, ll. 24-27.

In contrast, a top portion of coupling member 14 disclosed by Carstens does not protrude from coupling body 32 at least a same distance as an outermost portion of button 100 when button 100 is in a non-depressed state, as shown below.



Carstens, Fig. 4. In other words, an outermost portion of button 100 extends a greater distance from coupling body 32 than a top portion of coupling member 14 when button 100 is in a non-depressed state.

For at least these reasons, Carstens fails to disclose or suggest a top portion of said wall protruding from said outer surface at least a same distance as an outermost portion of said outer member protrudes from said outer surface when the outer member is in a non-depressed state, as recited by claim 1. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1, as well as claims 2-8 that depend therefrom, are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carstens. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and the correctness of the rejection is not conceded.

Claims 16-19 all depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons. Reconsideration and removal of the rejection are therefore requested.

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Examiner: Aaron M. Dunwoody  
Art Unit: 3679

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Docket No.: 1945.185US01

With these remarks, Applicants believe that the claims now pending are in a condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any further questions arise, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
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